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*News and notes from the **University of Dayton Honors Program***



***Honors Program
Celebrates 40 Years!***

First graduating class
of the University of Dayton
Honors Program, May 1983



THE DIRECTOR'S NOTE



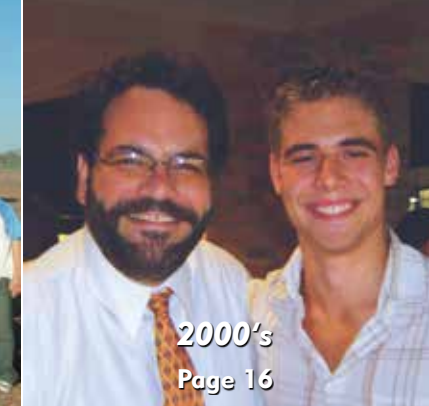
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DEAR HONORS ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS:

Back in 2006 I accepted an invitation: I was asked to meet with a group of Honors students and offer advice about graduate school applications. It must have gone well because a year or so later I was appointed associate director of the Honors Program. In keeping with the theme of this issue, my strongest memories of Honors date to the 2007-08 school year and to the accomplished team I joined. The fall of 2007 was a very difficult time for me — within days of beginning my Honors appointment, my father became ill and was hospitalized. In November 2007, James McCombe Jr. died, and one of the ways in which I dealt with the grief was my work in Honors — teaching two sections of the Berry Scholars English seminar and learning how to advise Honors students applying for national scholarships.

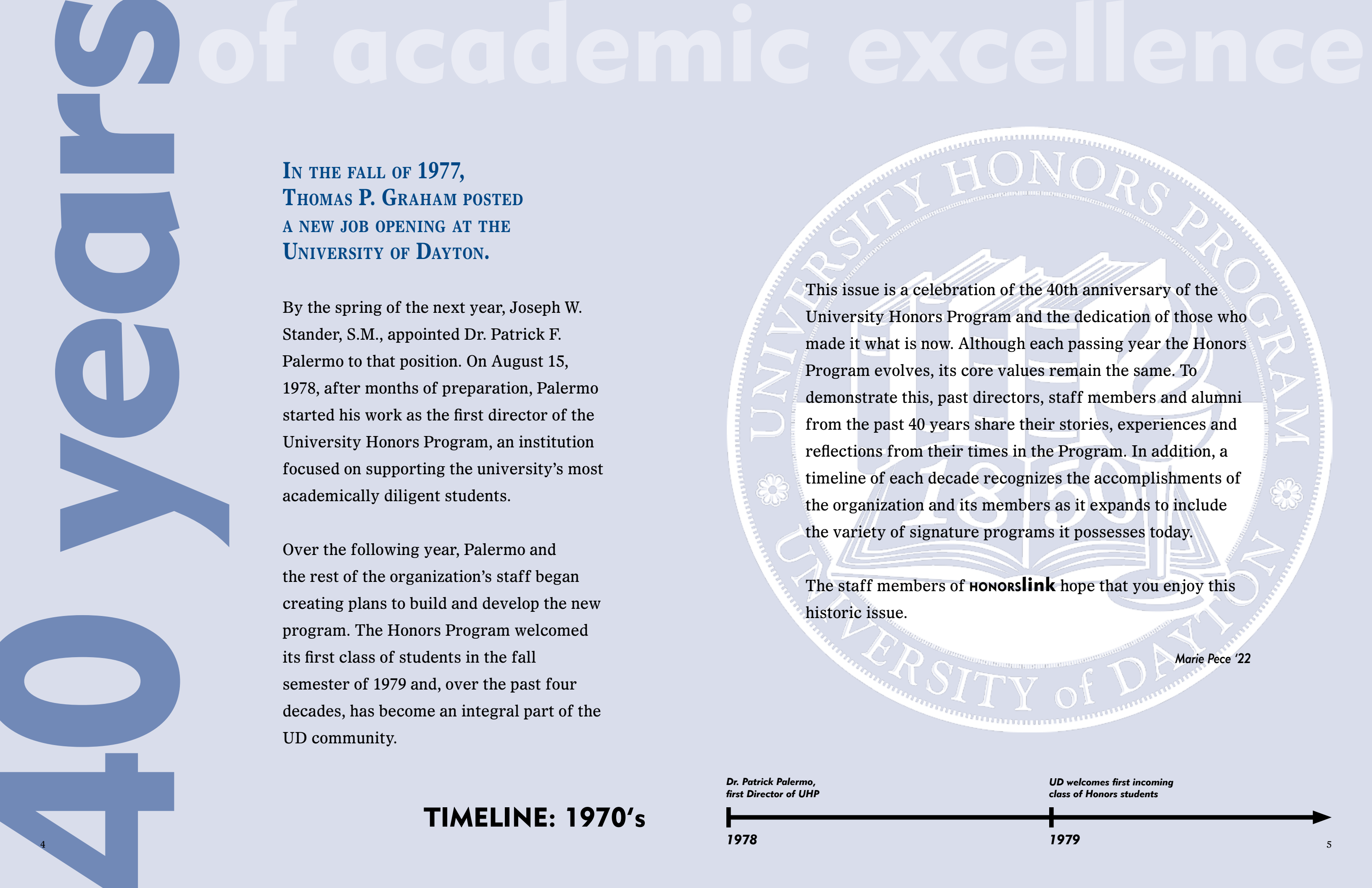
At the time, the Honors director was Dr. Tricia Hart. Tricia taught me how to run a meeting (and establish “action items” as it was concluding). I also learned the value of recognizing the strengths in members of a team and the power of offering a compliment when a job was well done. From Dr. Drew Murray, I learned much about how engineers approach problems and create, and then test, the systems designed to solve them. (Drew was also my foil in discussing/debating our respective tastes in music.) Working with Jeanne Palermo reminded me, daily, that every decision made by the Honors staff should serve the needs of Honors students, even if that decision was a difficult one. Ramona Speranza illustrated that a person can be, simultaneously, left-brained and right-brained. And have a sense of humor. And then there was/is Jill Talley, who I continue to learn from

each day 12 years later. Jill has worked with every director of the Program dating back to its founder, Dr. Patrick Palermo, so she has seen many changes in the Honors Program. But Jill never tires of learning and she responds to changes in the Honors office with grace, and patience and a sense of perspective.

I am forever grateful to the 2007 version of the Honors Program staff, and I continue to learn from the Honors team of 2019 (many thanks to Laura Cotten Howell, Maria Ollier Burkett, Regina Lloyd and Dr. Nancy Miller). To all current Honors students, faculty and alums, please enjoy this anniversary issue of HONORSlink and thank you for being a part of my life at UD — I wonder what the next 40 years will bring...?

Best regards,

John P. McCombe, Ph.D.



IN THE FALL OF 1977,
THOMAS P. GRAHAM POSTED
A NEW JOB OPENING AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON.

By the spring of the next year, Joseph W. Stander, S.M., appointed Dr. Patrick F. Palermo to that position. On August 15, 1978, after months of preparation, Palermo started his work as the first director of the University Honors Program, an institution focused on supporting the university’s most academically diligent students.

Over the following year, Palermo and the rest of the organization’s staff began creating plans to build and develop the new program. The Honors Program welcomed its first class of students in the fall semester of 1979 and, over the past four decades, has become an integral part of the UD community.

This issue is a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the University Honors Program and the dedication of those who made it what is now. Although each passing year the Honors Program evolves, its core values remain the same. To demonstrate this, past directors, staff members and alumni from the past 40 years share their stories, experiences and reflections from their times in the Program. In addition, a timeline of each decade recognizes the accomplishments of the organization and its members as it expands to include the variety of signature programs it possesses today.

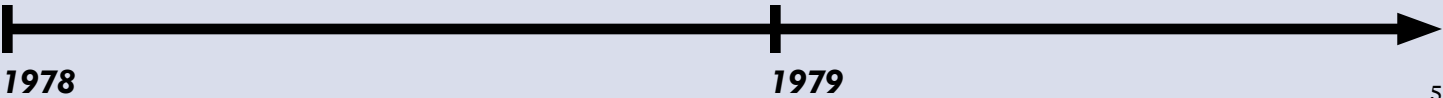
The staff members of **HONORSlink** hope that you enjoy this historic issue.

Marie Pece '22

TIMELINE: 1970's

Dr. Patrick Palermo,
first Director of UHP

UD welcomes first incoming
class of Honors students



Honors Program
Founder Reflects
on the Beginning

Patrick Palermo
Founder and Director Emeritus
1979 to 1991

In 1979, the first class of the University Honors Program began their journey as Honors students. Dr. Patrick Palermo, founder of the Program, was director from 1979 to 1991 and finds great satisfaction in the work he did during those years.

Through his work with scholarships, grants and smaller academic programs embedded within the greater Program, Palermo is to thank for many of the current opportunities now available in the University Honors Program. In the beginning, as Palermo describes, the Honors Program accepted 30 to 35 students. Each student was required to take a sequence of five seminars on a range of subjects and write a thesis. With time, each graduating class grew as the Program created new opportunities for Honors students at

UD. For example, once the Honors Program was well developed, Palermo began to offer expanded academic opportunities to students designated as Scholars.

During the early years of the Scholars program, students had some benefits but, as resources became available, this expanded into more seminars. Scholars also were required to read a book and attend a reading by the author. This experience allowed students to ask questions and work toward a deeper understanding of the books they read.

Founding the Honors Program required fundraising for the Program itself and raising money for the various scholarships and grants awarded to students. Thanks to Palermo and his team, the Honors Program received several millions of dollars in endowments. These donations continue to grow from alumni to local philanthropists, including Virginia Kettering, who donated two separate times for research support during Palermo's time as director. Other donations provided students with a variety of benefits, including grants for

studying abroad through the Cordell W. Hull Fellowship Fund, and for thesis writing and research — key components of the Honors Program benefits that continue to support students in the Program.

With these scholarships, grants and donations, the Program grew. More students pursued academic and interest-based opportunities. Honors students were enrolled in seminars and courses in several different disciplines — including an integrated course which required the foundations for a project to be developed within local, national or international localities. From those project foundations, a thesis could begin. Palermo is especially thankful for the opportunity Honors

students receive for thesis project guidance and support. He remarks that writing a thesis allows students to gain a greater chance for employment or a place in graduate school after they leave UD. He states that if a student writes a thesis, their courage, ambition and accomplishments are revealed through their project.

One memory Palermo looks back on took place during the first Honors luncheon before graduation. Looking around at the first Honors students in UD's history, Palermo remembered how the program began with few resources. With determination and persistence, those students were able to graduate with plenty of experience and academic success. Palermo said those students were the trailblazers, the first graduates of the University Honors Program with an abundance of courage, integrity and tenacity.

Looking forward, Palermo hopes the University Honors Program maintains the standards set in the early years that foster the Marianist charism of educating the entire person both academically and socially. Through the Program, learning and service come into play — and the Marianist tradition is crucial. Two additions Palermo particularly likes are the DC Flyers

1980's Staff

- Patrick Palermo, Director (1980-1991)
- Michael Payne, Associate Director (1987-1991)
- Bonnie Rosensweig, Assistant Director (1987-1991)
- Jill Talley, Secretary/Administrative Assistant (1984-present)
- Saul Young, Associate Director (1985-1986)

and Global Flyers programs, which were introduced after he left as program director. He is pleased with the opportunities given to students that allow them to receive an education and work experience locally and abroad and hope they will continue to be available.

Palermo also hopes the research and thesis opportunities continue to support each student in deepening their education in a way that makes them ready for life after graduation. From the beginning of the Program until now, Palermo is both proud of past accomplishments and impressed with its growth, and he hopes to see the University Honors Program continue to flourish in years to come.

Annabelle Harsch '21

INSPIRED BY THE
BENEFITS AND SUPPORT

given to Honors students by Patrick Palermo and the University Honors Program, Honors alumni established a fund dedicated to its founder — the Patrick F. Palermo Honors Program Founders Fund — “for Honors thesis projects that involve international research, service and leadership in the community, or which advance the realization of a just society.” Each year select Honors thesis candidates are awarded funds from this program to support their work.



Honors Program graduates its first class of 19 students

Jilly Talley, first administrative assistant

Saul Young, first Associate Director
Bonnie Rosensweig, first Assistant Director

First Annual Scholars Symposium



Alumni Reflections

Michele Gardill
Class of 1984

WE WERE AN HONORS CLASS that was sometimes known for our “creative” pranks.



The Honors Class of '84 honestly adored Dr. Ruff, and just wanted to make him laugh when we toilet-papered his yard. [Photo “re-creation” courtesy of flickr.com, photographer Steven Depolo.]

But I’ll reflect on something more professional for purposes of this commemorative edition of the 40th anniversary of the Honors Program...

My senior year stress level was off the charts — majoring in chemical

The Honors Class of 1984 (except for me — I was probably in the Sherman Hall basement lab working on my thesis!) Photo courtesy of the University of Dayton.



engineering with a bioengineering minor, working 10 to 20 hours a week at my on-campus job and carrying out my Honors thesis. Even though the thesis was an individual project, it was reassuring to know my fellow Honors Program colleagues were going through the same thing. We shared ideas and encouragement whenever we would see each other around campus that final year. My thesis sponsors were Dean Russell Primrose (dean of the School of Engineering) and Brother Don Geiger, S.M., professor emeritus of biology — both tremendously inspirational and helpful. Dr. Geiger once described the University of Dayton as a great place to work with “students learning to find their way in science professions.” I am pretty sure that Brother Don was including me when he said that!

My on-campus job was “hydroponic sugar beet gardener” in Brother Don’s plant physiology lab. My job blended perfectly with my Honors thesis; it involved engineering a new hydroponic method in which the micronutrient solution was pumped to the plants’ roots, held there for a time and allowed to drain back to a collection tank so the roots could breathe. Those steps repeated periodically by using a timer on the pump. I varied some of the factors (such as recycle rate) and then measured the effects on the plant’s growth rate.



My Honors thesis involved engineering a new hydroponic method for growing sugar beets. Photo courtesy of Colorado State University Food Science and Human Nutrition Extension.

For the first time “in real life” I had to grapple with specifying and purchasing processing equipment. Sure, I knew theoretically how to size a pump — first calculating the system head pressure given the flowrate needed, etc., and I knew a few things from my engineering classes about tanks, valves, hoses and fittings. But for this small hydroponic system? Everything seemed very different from my chemical engineering textbooks — lots of choices for materials, sizes, speeds, etc.! And which vendors to choose? Actually making the purchases was an experience

too — I don’t think I even knew the terms “invoice” or “accounts payable” yet.

One reason I loved the work on my Honors thesis was that I was carrying it out alongside some amazing post-graduate students. One such student was Sister Leanne Jablonski. She was working on a project with her sponsor, Brother Don Geiger. So I learned that, yes, science and religion really can mix just fine.

Then there was the young man in my chemical engineering class who would sometimes stop by the hydroponics lab to help me with my work. Or, was he really just getting ready to ask me out? I guess we both knew it was the latter.

Anyway, everything came together in time for graduation. I somehow managed to complete my Honors thesis, fulfill my duties as the sugar beet hydroponics gardener and get through all my classwork. And then that young man, Dwight Back, proposed to me.

Now over three decades later I can say that specifying, purchasing and starting up equipment has become almost second nature to me. I’ve been in charge of multi-million dollar processing systems here



Dwight Back and Michele Gardill



An example of a system I’ve installed and started up in China. Photo courtesy of Ekato Corporation.

in the U.S. as well as in Germany, China and Brazil.

And that special young man is now my husband of 31 years! Together we own Medical Device Pros, LLC, an engineering consulting firm for the medical device industry.

The University of Dayton Honors Program and my Honors Program thesis was the start of all that. I am so grateful for having had an early experience within the supportive, Catholic, confidence-building environment of UD — and with my fellow Honors Program colleagues and sponsors.

Ginny Judge Horan
Class of 1987

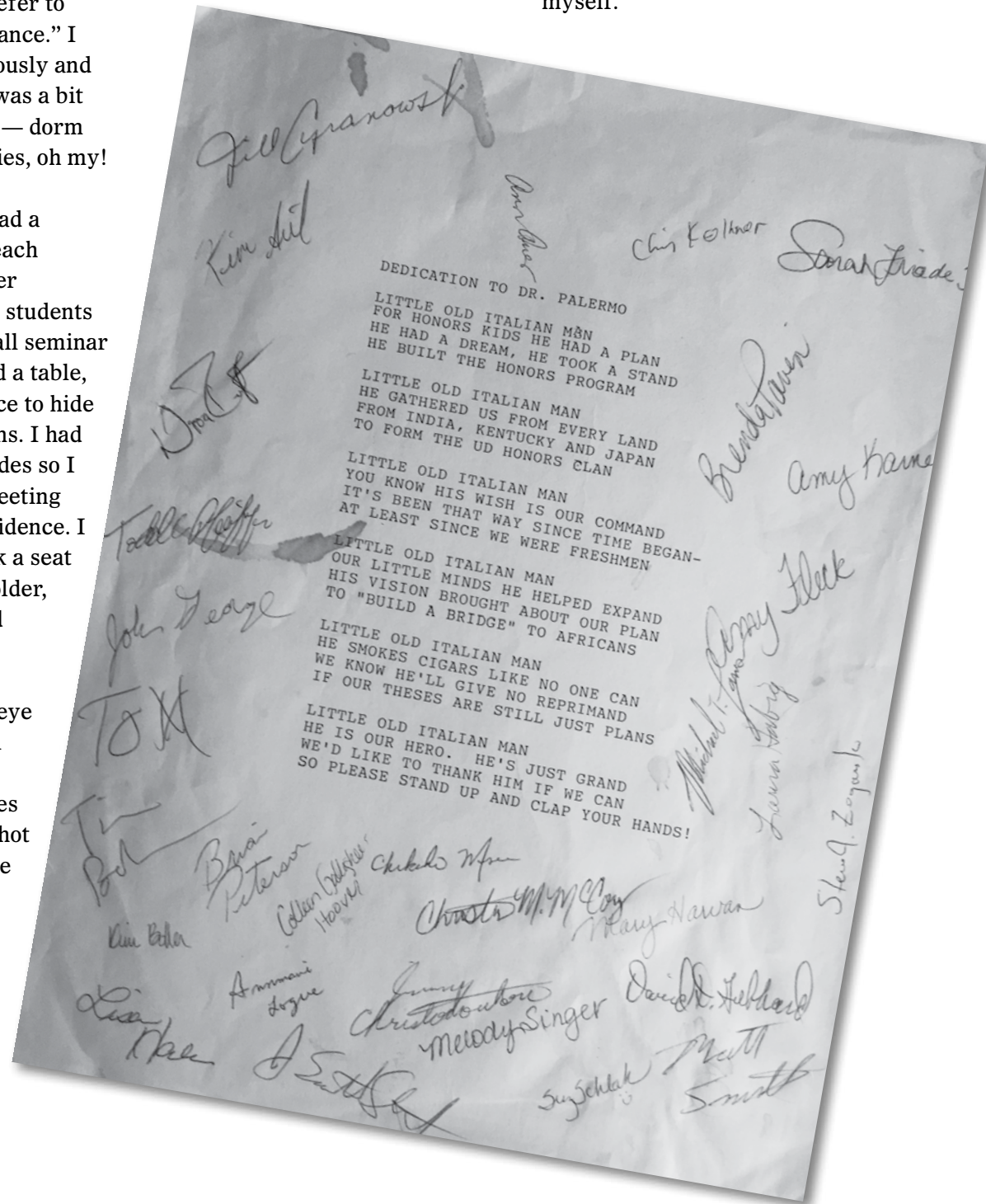
AS A FRESHMAN IN THE UD HONORS PROGRAM, our first seminar was English with Dr. Lawrence Ruff. I cannot lie — I was discovering every aspect of college life, not just studying. After being labeled the classic “nerd” in high school, I was experiencing what I would euphemistically refer to as my own “social renaissance.” I took my classes very seriously and I loved the seminar but I was a bit like a kid in a candy store — dorm friends and boys and parties, oh my!

Each semester, Dr. Ruff had a one-on-one meeting with each student to review his or her progress. As most Honors students will recall, we sat in a small seminar room in the library around a table, so there really was no place to hide when it came to discussions. I had received some decent grades so I approached my private meeting with a fair amount of confidence. I entered the office and took a seat as Dr. Ruff opened up a folder, readjusted his glasses and leaned back in his chair.

Then he looked me in the eye and said in that wonderful voice we all knew so well, “Miss Judge, when it comes to this class, when you’re hot you’re hot and when you’re not you’re not.”

He went on to explain his concerns about my inconsistent performance and how important it was to be present, prepared and involved for every class.

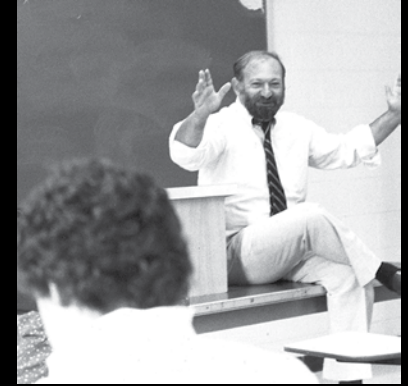
As someone who did pretty well in high school, I was not used to such frank feedback but I am forever grateful for that meeting and for Dr. Ruff. It was a much needed wake-up call that guided the rest of my time at UD, and it forever changed me as a student and now as a teacher myself.



QUOTE

“It is no exaggeration to say that Dr. Palermo was one of the most important people with whom I’ve ever come in contact. He is among a handful of people who have significantly shaped the person I am today. I served as minority chief of staff in the Ohio Senate. Many people helped me get to that point, but the [person] who helped most during my formative UD years was Pat Palermo. I’ll always be grateful to him for his patience, guidance and friendship.”

Patrick McClean
Class of 1985



1990's SUSTAINING excellence

Joyful Journey

Alan Kimbrough
Director Emeritus
1991 to 2000

DR. ALAN KIMBROUGH SERVED AS DIRECTOR of the Honors Program during the last decade of the 20th century. He earned his Ph.D. from Brown University in English and served as an English professor at UD.

Kimbrough has many gifts and talents from the literary to the musical to the administrative. He has a personal passion for Shakespeare, Milton and the pipe organ. From time to time, you can hear him playing haunting melodies on the organ at local churches, throughout New Student Orientation and a variety of other events. I even had the pleasure of having Kimbrough as my organ instructor freshman year. Kimbrough had another passion, too: finding bright students and nurturing their success.

Kimbrough has many pleasant memories of his time as Honors director and counts among his favorite memories the “bookends”

of the Honors student’s journey. He valued finding potential Honors students who were just about to enter college, and celebrated the achievements of those who graduated with Honors and presented a thesis. “What a joy it was to see and applaud the maturation and achievement that four years had brought in the lives of these talented students,” he said.

As director of the Honors Program, Kimbrough faced challenges, too. With many bright students interested in pursuing research, securing a budget which met all of their needs was often difficult. While there was never enough funding to meet every budget request, Kimbrough recounted that he was “usually successful in enabling their research projects to proceed to completion.”

In the end, though, the challenges were worth the result because of what the Honors Program brings to UD: undergraduate research. Kimbrough believes undergraduate research is vital to the University’s mission and he believes research serves as a useful recruiting tool for the best and the brightest students. The Honors Program has not

remained constant over the ages; it has adapted and evolved through time. In Kimbrough’s day, Honors students were able to take over 18 credits hours without incurring additional fees. Some students averaged an astounding 30 credits a semester, and “could thus accumulate multiple majors, even multiple degrees....some of them managed an incredible educational record as a result.”

After years of service, Kimbrough describes his hopes for the future of the Honors Program as twofold. First, he would like to see the Honors Program continue to be an effective recruiting tool in bringing to UD “the brightest of the students who apply.” Second, he wants the Honors Program to continue to support undergraduate research and achievements, which he believes will best position students for graduate or professional school admission.

Paul Scheeler '21



(left to right) Pat Palermo, Robert Mott and Alan Kimbrough
Photo courtesy of Robert Mott.

1990's Staff

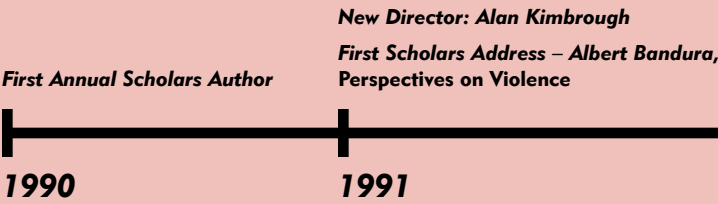
Alan Kimbrough, Director
(1991-2000)

Barbara De Luca, Associate Director
(1993-1998)

Michael Payne, Associate Director
(1987-1991)

Bonnie Rosensweig, Assistant
Director (1987-1991)

Jill Talley, Secretary/Administrative
Assistant (1984-present)



honors FRIEND

Supporting the Program

William Trollinger Honors and Core Faculty

ENTERING HIS SEVENTH YEAR as Core director, Dr. Bill Trollinger interacts with the Honors Program on many levels. Besides his work in the Core Program, he has mentored numerous Honors theses and reviews applications of UD students who apply for Fulbright and Marshall scholarships.

The process for these awards includes more than writing recommendations. Trollinger takes part in a committee which meets with the students involved to prepare and help them improve their applications.

Trollinger believes the Core Program and the Honors Program have a mutually beneficial relationship. He estimates about 35 to 40 percent of Core students are also Honors students. While it's good that Core is not exclusively for Honors students, the Core Program does benefit Honors students by offering an efficient way to complete most of their Honors credits.

Trollinger has found that the quality of leadership in the Honors Program makes it easy and enjoyable to interact with Honors students and faculty. He especially appreciates the roles David Darrow and John McCombe have played improving the Program's organization and leading students to pursue opportunities like Core, the Honors signature programs and prestigious fellowships. In Trollinger's estimation, the fact that these programs and scholarships are so readily available to so many bright students benefits both the students and the university.

Even with the recent addition of opportunities in the Honors Program, Trollinger believes the basic idea of UD's Honors Program has stood the test of time. In particular, he views the fact that students who may not be eligible for the Honors Program during their admission to UD can still enter the Program during their first year of college as one of the most important aspects of the Program. To him, it is good to remind students that they have the opportunity to succeed while discovering their academic passion. This element of UD's Honors Program is not the case in all Honors programs.

Throughout his years directing Core, Trollinger has continually been astonished by how much his students achieve in the Honors Program. He's always enjoyed working with Honors and Core students and has encountered many seminars of enthusiastic first-years in the Core program. Year after year, he is happy to see how his students achieve more than they believed possible and is especially gratified to hear updates from past students to see how they are progressing in their careers and higher education.

Trollinger hopes the Honors Program will keep its current direction, appealing to those who seek the opportunities it provides while remaining available to those who discover it after having started college. He believes the last few years of the Honors Program have been an outstanding example of what the program should strive to be. Trollinger encourages students to keep up their hard work and to remember that "you're privileged to be part of the Program — take advantage of it and don't squander the opportunity."

Marty McKew '21

Alumni Reflection

Danielle Dumont
Class of 1996

THE WELL-ROUNDED, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

afforded by the UD Honors Program has translated into a career in scientific and technical communications and marketing for a liberal arts major. The challenges — and fun — I now have editing a 600-page manual that guides a hydropower company in environmental stewardship projects across multiple rivers harken back to my stint as editor of the final report on systems design for my Honors senior class project more than 20 years ago.

I live in Portland, Oregon, and manage program communications for a river restoration nonprofit in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. I am married to Joel Michael ('96, VCD).



2020 DIRECTOR emeriti NOTES

A Reflection

Steven Dandaneau
Director Emeritus
2000 to 2006

“THOSE WHO HAVE RUN OUT OF HOLY SPIRIT speak with mechanical tongues.”

So quipped Theodor W. Adorno, a twentieth-century German philosopher worthy of the Humanities Center edifice. It is with his sense of “spirit” in mind that I recall with fondness and more so with awe the Honors students who I was fortunate to encounter in my 10 years (1996-2006) with the Program. They so often embodied and, as a result of their curiosity and determination, so often developed what I came to understand as the Catholic-Marianist spirit, in ways that are for me as indelible as they are edifying. I trust that these Honors alumni, as well as their esteemed predecessors and counterparts today, make their way attuned to the need for resistance to that which is merely instrumental and cynical, make their way dedicated to practical realization of our highest values, make their way open to the possibility of pacification and redemption.

I cannot speak for the Program’s founder, Pat Palermo, or for the

countless who contributed so much to its growth and refinement, but I recall a magical experience that emerged regularly from the day-to-day.



DR. STEVEN P. DANDANEAU is currently serving as executive director of the Reinvention Collaborative and Associate Provost at Colorado State University. After leaving the University of Dayton, Dandaneau served as vice provost for undergraduate studies at Kansas State University; associate provost and director of the Chancellor’s Honors and Halsam Scholars Programs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and visiting professor of sociology, University of Maryland, College Park. He earned a B.A. in economics (with honors) from Michigan State University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in sociology from Brandeis University.

Dandaneau’s first book published in 1996 focuses on his hometown of Flint, Michigan. *A Town Abandoned: Flint, Michigan, Confronts Deindustrialization* chronicles how the closing of several General Motors automobile manufacturing plants led to widespread unemployment.

A Pioneering Spirit

Patricia Hart
Director Emerita
2006 to 2010



DURING DR. PATRICIA HART’S **TENURE** with the University Honors Program, she brought her pioneering spirit and dynamism to the table, coordinating with faculty and staff to broaden the reach and impact of the Program. The most prominent advance the Program made during her time as director was the creation and implementation of the new policies which opened the door to a host of UD students. Where once a relatively small number of students could avail themselves of the benefits and opportunities of the Program, now hundreds could choose to do a thesis, earn an Honors Program diploma and apply for awards for study abroad and thesis funding.

Among her achievements as Honors director was the creation of the Honors Student Symposium. Hart worked with the two associate directors of the Program, Andrew Murray and John McCombe — representatives from engineering and English, respectively — to craft the event. She shared her memories of creating the Symposium.

“Historically when the senior Honors thesis students completed their research they presented their work in a written format. Later, a poster presentation at the university-wide Stander Symposium was added to the thesis expectations.

“We modeled the Honors Student Symposium after a professional conference, where the presenter shares his or her work in a formal presentation before an audience and answers questions. The audience consisted of the student’s advisor, other faculty, UD administrators, other students, family and friends.

“The administrative team of Jill Talley, Jeanne Palermo and Ramona Speranza provided the essential support to make the Symposium a reality that first year. Over the years, their organizational skills have enhanced this university event. In March 2020, the HSS will celebrate its fourteenth year.

“I am proud to have served as Director of the UHP with this exemplary team of faculty and staff, and with outstanding UHP students.”

In celebrating past achievements, Hart looks to the future as well. Since the Honors Program offers many benefits and opportunities to current students and serves

as a key recruiting tool for bright prospective students, its success is crucial to the success of the university as a whole. Hart has seen the Program adapt to the challenge of meeting the needs of so many students as it grows, a challenge she understands well from her time as director. She hopes the Honors Program will continue to expand an Honors curriculum beyond the first year courses and challenge students who have a thirst for knowledge.

2000’s Staff

Steve Dandaneau, Director
 (2000-2006)

Patricia Hart, Director
 (2006-2010)

Robert Brecha, Associate Director
 (2006-2007)

Regina Lloyd, Financial Assistant
 (2009-2011)

John McCombe, Associate Director,
 fellowships (2007-2012)

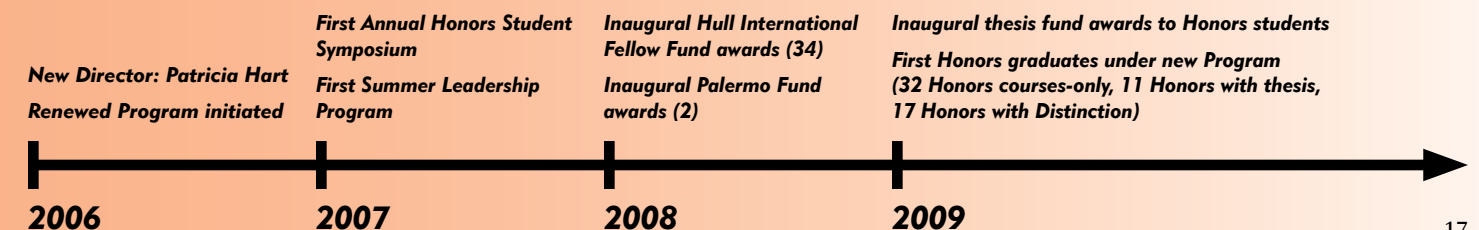
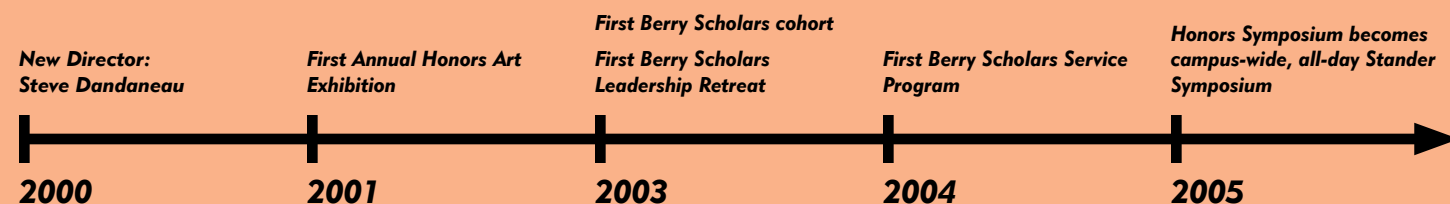
Andrew Murray, Associate Director,
 research (2007-2011)

Jeanne Palermo, Assistant Director
 (2001-2014)

Jayne Robinson, Associate Director
 (2000-2005)

Ramona Speranza, Office
 Coordinator (2007-2019)

Jill Talley, Administrative Assistant
 (1984-present)



Paul Scheeler '21

Assisting
the Program

Jeanne Palermo
Assistant Director
2001 to 2014



AFTER A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER in museum management, Jeanne Palermo had the incredible and rewarding experience of being the assistant director of the Honors Program from 2001 until she retired in 2014. Throughout her time as assistant director, she worked alongside three directors and witnessed the Program grow into what it is today.

As assistant director of the University Honors Program, Palermo’s main duties included managing the scholarship funds for Honors students, handling the program’s finances, working with the admissions process for future Honors students and supervising the office staff.

Throughout her time as assistant director, the Honors Program grew and provided an extension of tracks “...to offer more and varied academic experiences to many more of UD’s strongest students.” This is incredibly helpful when those students graduate and enter the workforce. With that experience

in the Honors Program, students have a greater awareness of their academic discipline and will reflect UD’s charism of producing well-rounded students.

Married to the program’s founder, Palermo found that her favorite memories are from the Program’s earliest years. From attending the annual Honors picnic with her family, to seeing her son design the Program’s Christmas card, to working on the Honors Art Exhibit every year, the Honors Program gifted Palermo with several opportunities and memories which reflect the community spirit found on UD’s campus. Memories Palermo tends to fall back on involve the initiation of the Honors Student Symposium with former director, Patricia Hart. The symposium allowed Palermo to see the dedication each student put into their projects, and she believes the moments of seeing the hard work students put in their academic projects as undeniably rewarding.

For future prospects of the Honors Program, Palermo wishes for it to “...maintain its academic rigor, its interdisciplinary opportunities and especially the Honors thesis experience for UD’s most academically gifted students.” Palermo is incredibly thankful for her time spent as assistant director of the University Honors Program.

Annabelle Harsch ‘21

From Student
to Staff

Anne Crecelius
Class of 2007
Faculty and Acting Chair,
Department of Health and
Sport Science, UD



“I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE [HONORS] PROGRAM because for me, it was one of the more transformative parts of my undergraduate experience,” says Dr. Anne Crecelius, class of 2007. “Supporting the Program is my way of giving back and passing on the opportunities I was able to capitalize on.” Crecelius is an alumna of the University of Dayton Honors Program and a current faculty member with and acting chair of the Department of Health and Sport Science at the University of Dayton.

“The Honors Program is one of the many ways at UD that students are able to make their educational experience more distinctive. Through the coursework as well as the optional thesis process, students are able to pursue topics of interest in deep and meaningful ways,” Crecelius states.

Although Crecelius was a member of the Honors Program during her time as an undergraduate student at UD, the program has evolved since her own experience. “The Program has gone through some changes from having a smaller group of Honors students / Berry Scholars to supporting thesis work in the Berry Summer Thesis Institute (BSTI),” says Crecelius. “Overall, though, the Program has continued to provide scholarships, opportunities and classes to students in the same way. The Program, like the institution as a whole, has grown significantly since my time as a student.”

Despite the Honors Program’s changes, Crecelius states that elements of the Program have remained the same. “In addition to some of the structural components, some of the people were the same, like the dedicated faculty that teach Honors courses and some of the administrative assistants. It’s been great to have familiar faces in the Program throughout the years,” Crecelius says.

When asked about her favorite memory from her time as a student in the Honors Program, Crecelius mentioned that she had many. “I have a lot of really great memories, from the courses, extracurricular activities, my research and the

lifelong friendships I’ve made,” Crecelius said. “One memory would be the graduation brunch we had our senior year. It was so great to celebrate with good friends, their families and all of the faculty and staff that supported our journey.” Dr. Crecelius then proceeded to mention the memories she’s had since becoming a faculty member. “As a faculty member, I think one of my favorite memories was when one of my BSTI students presented her work as a Porch Project for the Stander Symposium,” Crecelius stated. “She described her journey through all four years, research experiences, conference attendance and successful acceptance of a graduate assistantship. Eric and Karen Spina were able to attend as well as some of her friends. It was a very ‘proud mentor’ moment for me.”

Crecelius went on to address her future hopes for UD’s Honors Program. “I hope the Program continues to provide opportunities for students to learn, lead and serve in the characteristic UD way,” she stated. “I hope students are challenged, both academically and personally by the offerings and, like I did, see the Program as a critical part of their Dayton experience.”

Jacqueline Pittacora ‘21

Thinking Deeper

Laura Leming
Honors Faculty
1999 to Present

SISTER LAURA LEMING, an associate professor of sociology and former chair of the department, has been at the University of Dayton since 1999. After spending the fall 2019 semester in India, she took some time to reflect on her experience with UD and the University Honors Program (UHP). This reflection is a testament to how hardworking and impactful she has been to all those who encounter her.

It is obvious Leming is passionate about social justice. (I took her SSC 200 class, and it was one of the most eye-opening classes I have taken. She taught me a lot about the world and the importance of doing more than being an unengaged bystander.)

When I asked about her continuous support of the UHP, Leming told me she enjoyed “introducing students to social science research and helping them learn to see the world with a more critical eye for how social structures can either work for the common good or limit people’s full flourishing.”

Teaching Honors students who “have the kind of desire to go deeper,... enabl[ing] them to do the kind of critical thinking that social science invites people to,” is one

of the things that excites her most about the UHP.

Today, she is still teaching and says, “I find it sort of funny that with the Common Academic Program (CAP), I’m back to teaching an introduction to social science — though the theme has changed quite a bit. Now my course focuses on interfaith literacy and how world religions pursue social justice.”

Leming has been instructing Honors students for years. These are her recollections of the early days: “I started with the Honors Program when we had Berry Scholars — a cohort of 30 students each year. I team-taught the Introduction to Social Science Course with City Commissioner Dean Lovelace — this was before SSC 200 was part of CAP. The theme was “Going beyond Your Borders” and we used my knowledge of sociology and Commissioner Lovelace’s expansive knowledge of the city of Dayton to explore social issues in Dayton and beyond, because we also incorporated a U.S.-Mexico Border Immersion program into some of the years we taught that course. It was a great experience. I am glad though that now the Honors Program has been extended to a wider group of students who benefit.”

One of Leming’s favorite memories of the UHP is “taking students on the City Links Tours with Lovelace — listening to him share his

memories of growing up in Dayton, showing students the sites where industries used to be — introducing them to neighborhoods and NGOs working for development.”

Leming is hopeful for the future of the Honors Program and would “love to see more students write theses.” Doing an Honors thesis “is a lot of work but it builds so much capacity and confidence for [students’] future endeavors, whether in the working world or as they pursue graduate work.”

Leming is also one of the Chaminade Scholars faculty. “Part of the SSC 200 class for the sophomore Chaminade Scholars is a ‘Sacred Space Walkabout’ where the class visits and later analyzes various religious themed spaces on campus. A visit to Fr. Chaminade is a must!”

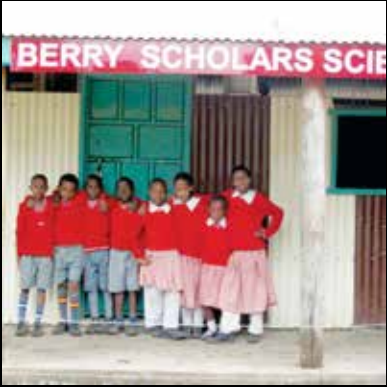
Katrina Coleman '20



QUOTE

“The Program has gone through some changes from having a smaller group of Honors students [and] Berry Scholars to supporting thesis work in the Berry Summer Thesis Institute. Overall, though, the Program has continued to provide scholarships, opportunities and classes to students in the same way. The Program, like the institution as a whole, has grown significantly since my time as a student.”

Anne Crecelius
Class of 2007



2020's GROWING opportunity

The Introduction of Signature Programs

David Darrow
Director Emeritus
2010-2016

FOR SIX YEARS Dr. David Darrow served as the director of the University Honors Program. He led the Honors Program as it brought in students eager to take advantage of the several new signature programs introduced during his tenure. The programs offer great opportunities in numerous career paths and are now staples of the Honors Program. For instance, the DC Flyers and Global Flyers programs provide students with internships or academic support in their areas of interest in Washington, D.C., London or Oxford, England. Darrow is proud to see that these programs, and others such as the Chaminade Scholars program and Berry

Summer Thesis Institute, continue to attract students.

Despite the fact that it is not a required element of earning an Honors Program diploma, Darrow believes the thesis to be an important part of the overall Honors experience and one of the best opportunities of which an Honors student can take advantage. The experiential learning and research involved in a thesis project is invaluable to a student, as this project will allow the student to determine if they are interested in pursuing certain avenues. Darrow also sees the benefits and opportunities to be well-balanced with the



obligations and work necessary for the different Honors diploma options.

One of Darrow's favorite memories of his time as director consists of the Honors Student Welcome lunches over which he presided at the beginning of every year. He would see nearly 1,000 people in the RecPlex eating KU boxed lunches and hoped he could say something to the first-year students and their parents that would be reassuring and inspiring. Along with the memories of the incoming Honors classes, Darrow also remembers fondly the senior brunches which sent off the graduating Honors students. Being able to see how the students had grown after four years at UD has always been something special for him.

Darrow continues to support the Honors Program by teaching Core courses and serving on thesis review committees. He encourages students to think about applying for various post-grad scholarships and

to consider taking advantage of the thesis option. As for the future of the Honors Program, Dr. Darrow sincerely hopes that it continues to provide challenging and interesting opportunities for students to engage intellectually and experientially with what drives their curiosity. He wants the students of the Honors Program today, and in the future, to “dare to know and love each other.”

Marty McKew '21



2010's Staff

- David Darrow**, Director (2010-2016)
- John McCombe**, Director (2016-present), Associate Director, fellowships (2007-2012)
- Maria Ollier Burkett**, Assistant Director (2014-present)
- Laura Cotten Howell**, Associate Director, fellowships (2012-present)
- Carissa Krane**, Associate Director, research (2011-2014)
- Regina Lloyd**, Financial Assistant (2009-11), Office Coordinator (2019-present)
- Nancy Miller**, Associate Director, research (2015-present)
- Andrew Murray**, Associate Director, research (2007-2011)
- Jeanne Palermo**, Assistant Director (2001-2014)
- Ramona Speranza**, Office Coordinator (2007-2019)
- Jill Talley**, Administrative Assistant (1984-present)

New Director: David Darrow
Inaugural Honors Student Welcome (264 participants, 64 leaders)

Chaminade Scholars becomes first Honors signature program (new cohort of 19 with 27 existing Chamis)
Berry Summer Thesis Institute (first cohort of 11)

DC Flyers (first cohort of 15)
Inaugural Daniel P. Arnold Memorial Scholarship award
Inaugural Gar scholarship awards (4)

New Director: John McCombe
Global Flyers (first cohort of 13 — London: 6, Oxford: 3, India: 4)

Clare Boothe Luce program (first cohort of 4)

Pilot GRE Advanced Training signature program (cohort of 12)



Alumni Reflections

Dan Prindle Class of 2011

I WAS CONDUCTING RESEARCH for my Honors thesis while studying abroad in the Danube River Delta in Romania. The study abroad class of undergraduate students was scheduled to be on a house boat for four to five days looking at the “down-stream” impacts sustainable and unsustainable practices of the communities further upstream. However interested we may have been to conduct our studies, we were also anxious to enjoy being on the water.

I can remember the look on our three accompanying professors’ faces when I rebelliously lead the entire class to jump from the second story of the boat into the water below. I was rightfully corrected for my boldness, but I am delighted to report I was hired to work for the very professor whose lunch was almost lost in the event. He has stated he learned a lot about my fearlessness and ability to lead from that experience and now values those attributes as he wants me to help secure new contracts. There is a lot more to learn than just your thesis on a study abroad!

Lauren (Haner) Welsh Class of 2012

THE HONORS PROGRAM did so much for me as a student at UD. When I was placed into the Core LLC, I was (mistakenly) told by my sister to drop out and do regular housing/classes because, “Honors classes will be harder and you will



have no social life.” I am so glad that I did not heed that advice!

For one, Core allowed me to have more of a social life because my floor mates were my classmates. Since our class schedules were the same, we all could walk to class as the massive and infamous freshman mob. We ate daily meals together, and the most important part — did homework together. My procrastinator tendencies were kept in check because everyone was working on her Core papers and homework at the same time. There was nothing else to do until they were completed, so you might as well work. Once they were submitted, we could all celebrate together. We also formed study groups that involved students from all of the different seminars to create the most comprehensive study guides for mid-terms and finals.

Even as we grew up and moved into different residence halls and class schedules, the friendships forged in late-night study sessions, common classes and shared meals persevered. Just a few months ago, I was at the wedding of one of our fellow Honors graduates. I met him freshman year and only because of the Honors Program.

Specifically concerning the classes, I loved the seminar approach. We had joint lectures on history, religion and English; we could see multiple perspectives for the same event and

study humanities in a cohesive way, just like in real life. Then, we had discussion-based seminars where our preconceived notions were challenged to make us stand for what we believed and understand our own biases. I still remember a discussion we had in Dr. Una Cadegan’s seminar, where we talked about feminism and women’s rights, and I look back now and laugh at how naive I was. I barely scratched the surface of my own opinions before I started at UD. I think the Honors Program made me a better and smarter student.

Plus, the added benefit of having one nine-credit-hour mega class that covered most of the general education courses is why I had more room in my schedule for passion projects like being involved in tons of clubs and extra-curricular activities.

Without Core and the Honors Program, I would not be the person I am today. I would not have met my incredible group of friends, have the same education or be as effective as a teacher.

Cassie (Brakers) Wilson Class of 2015

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of my time at UD was the Chaminade Scholars program through the Honors Program. Our cohort strongly connected in faith and fun and helped me to pursue Christ



more fully in my life. Our group loved to play the game “Signs” when we were all together, and in this photo we are all making our “sign” we used to play with. Chami love!

Kellie Niehaus Class of 2017

I MET MY FUTURE HUSBAND, Nicholas Maertz ’17 at Honors freshman orientation on the SEE LLC floors, where we both lived freshman year. We will marry May 23, 2020, at UD at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception and will stay to live in the Dayton area as he works as an engineer at WPAFB [Wright Patterson Air Force Base] and I begin my career as a physician assistant (PA). Nick and I are very thankful for the Honors Program for both our prosperous careers and our life together.



Christian Ray Class of 2017

IT WAS 8 A.M. on an already hot and dry Dayton morning in early September. I remember stumbling into my Honors ENG 200-something class, groggy from a late night of cramming some science fiction novel that I had procrastinated reading for days. I arrived into class, ready to discuss our assigned chapters of Dune, when I realized that this cute woman sitting next to



me bore the exact same name as one of the most essential characters. Our professor soon gathered the class together for a brief discussion about what themes, imagery and literary devices we saw in the book. I stared at my desk for five minutes, silencing conversations around me while racking my brain for some brilliant and clever insight.

Yes, that’s great! I immediately cleared my throat in conversational assertion at the next empty silence and calmly mused, “This character, Jessica. She’s described as a shining star in the desert among the dunes, almost like an impossibly beautiful spring of life amidst the hot sands. Is Jessica perhaps an allusion to the gorgeous Helen of Troy from the Greek classics?” The professor leaned back for a moment in repose, considering the notion.

“Well... not quite. Dune was more influenced by Japanese Buddhism and uh... sand dunes in Oregon. Thanks for contributing your thoughts. Anyone else?”

My visions of literary profundity were lost in an instant, almost like sand through my fingers. I replayed the events of the last 30 seconds in my head while imagining myself falling down a cascading dune, before slowly turning my beet-red head around in agony.

To my surprise, I saw the girl adjacent to me snickering at my failure — somewhat entertained by this bit of embarrassing life I created in the hot, morning classroom.

Two years later, that girl and I traveled to Colorado together to hike up to the highest peak in the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Now I don’t want to criticize our professor, but hey, the best thing about literature is that everyone can see something different in it.

Olivia Thomakos Class of 2018

BECAUSE OF THE HONORS PROGRAM, I was given the opportunity to live and work in London for six weeks the summer after my sophomore year. It was an honor and a privilege to be accepted into the first cohort of Global Flyers. I studied Shakespeare in his home country and saw shows at the Globe Theatre as class assignments. Additionally, I learned about globalization and the differences in the U.S. vs. U.K. work environment. Some of the stereotypes about these environments were addressed and discussed in a classroom setting. They were further realized in the physical workplace, where I had the opportunity to learn firsthand how a U.K. office functions and compares to a U.S. office.

My internship for this program was at the Youth Music Theatre UK. I was given this internship because of my interest in the arts and my experience with children. I built relationships with a diverse staff from England, Italy and Australia. We were able to view sets for the



Monica Klepper
Class of 2020
(December 2019 graduate)

performances the students would take part in as well as discuss performance details with creative directors. In our free time, we discussed U.S. pop culture and watched YouTube videos which I attribute to modern cultural exchange.

It was also a joy to participate in this experience with one of my closest friends. Neither of us knew the other was applying for the program initially, so it was even more exciting the day we both received our acceptance emails. Because she was in a different class and internship, we were able to learn more from one another than we could have if we had taken part in the experience alone. We also traveled together and were able to visit her childhood friend in Belgium for a long weekend.

One part of my experience that I will never forget is when I was in London the day of the Brexit vote. I did not have work the day the vote was announced that the U.K. would leave the European Union. The day felt eerie and quiet. I went to the cinema alone and watched the new X-Men movie. This is when I received cinema popcorn culture shock. Sweet popcorn: a true cinematic tragedy.

I was so lucky to have this experience and am grateful for the Honors Program and the Honors staff for supporting and encouraging me through a summer that I will never forget.

THE HONORS PROGRAM has been a big part of my college career and certainly one of the most influential. Employers will note my potential for an Honors diploma and my parents are so proud. However, I wish to elaborate on the way that the Honors Program developed me and supported my personal growth that you won't hear from many students.

In my second year at UD, I took a black and white photography class. It consisted of hours inside a darkroom developing photos and making a hundred mistakes before getting the exact right print. By the end of the semester, the course had boosted my GPA and I had a new found knowledge and appreciation for the skill as well as some black and white photos of my own. I thought that would be the end of my general education courses and therefore the end of my artistic career, but thankfully I was wrong!

The Honors Program at UD offers an art exhibit every year featuring all forms of art work created by UD Honors Program students. The first lesson that the Honors Program taught me was stepping out of my comfort zone. I never considered myself an artist; however, I was an Honors student and I did have some black and white photographs in my VWK dorm room that had recently earned me a passing grade.

I decided, why not? Low and behold, two of my pieces were accepted and I even had the opportunity to win some money. In that moment, I learned a second lesson from the Honors Program and the faculty and

staff that run it: acceptance. In the midst of the chaos that can be one's college career, it's easy to feel lost.

You may deal with tough classes, professors, roommates, friends, coworkers or classmates, but every time I have entered Alumni Hall, I have felt authentically accepted. As I have stated, my first submissions to the exhibit were accepted and showcased. My parents attended the exhibit and it was a really unique reason to bring them on campus — I could feel their excitement for me. The following year, I submitted pieces once more; however, none of them were accepted. Feeling mildly defeated, I walked back to Alumni Hall to retrieve my work. Dr. John McCombe was there to greet me and commended me for my hard work. So, even in the low moments of my college career as an Honors student, I have felt welcome and appreciated in the Program.

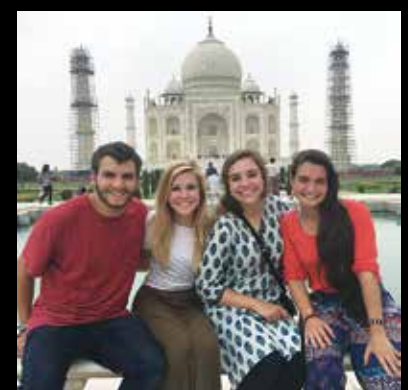
No one was there when I was a senior in high school applying to college to tell me to work my hardest so that I could get into the Honors Program, so that I could experience acceptance and courage in its purest form in addition to all of the obvious benefits. So, here I am telling you and reminding myself: be courageous and take those chances because being in the Honors Program is the first great decision you can make in a long line of succeeding great decisions.



Alumni Reflection

Carol (Harper) Schwiebert
Class of 2013

It's possible that nothing has had a stronger influence on my life than my decision to apply to UD in hopes of joining the Honors Program, following my brother's outstanding experience. This photo — snapped in 2010 just before kicking off the Honors Student Welcome — is such a great memory of how our time in the Program overlapped. The gratitude my family holds for the exceptional leaders and staff, meaningful relationships and immensely supportive community we found through the UHP cannot be overstated, and we all share warm and happy wishes for the 40th anniversary!



ALTHOUGH as of the publication date of this issue the Class of 2020 seniors have not yet graduated, we wanted to include them in this issue as the next group of Honors students who have succeeded in completing the requirements toward an Honors Program diploma. We wish them good luck in this stage of the academic journey and congratulations on continuing the legacy of success of the University Honors Program!

Below are the final historical photos of past graduating Honors classes (see Issues 2 from years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 for all other graduating class photos.)

- Reda H. Aldahan**
Finance and Management
Information Systems

Erica H. Abbarno
Exercise Science

Alicia M. Abele
International Studies and Spanish

Emma R. Adams
International Studies and Spanish

Natalie L. Allen
Applied Mathematical Economics

John D. Barnard
Environmental Biology

John M. Barrett
Pre-physical Therapy

Emily C. Basile
Industrial Engineering Technology

Alex Bassil
Chemical Engineering

Emily C. Battaglia
English

Thomas J. Belsterling
Adolescence to Young Adult Education
and Secondary Religious Education

Anna K. Benton
Chemical Engineering

Tyler P. Berkshire
Computer Science

Benjamin D. Berry
Mechanical Engineering

Bridget P. Berry
Marketing and Management
Information Systems

Elayne R. Bischoff
Finance

Olivia L. Bittner
Biology

Anna G. Blair
Biochemistry
- Natalie E. Blank**
International Studies and Spanish

Jacob M. Blewitt
Finance

Bryan J. Borodkin
Political Science

Alexandra D. Brezovec
Pre-medicine

Lindsey M. Bronder
Secondary Religious Education and
Adolescence to Young Adult Education

Julia L. Brown
Marketing

Kaeley E. Bush
Biology

Jordyn J. Caffray
Pre-dentistry

Caroline A. Calhoun
Pre-medicine

Rachel Carr
Political Science

Joseph G. Charbel
Operations Management

Mary G. Charleton
Pre-medicine

Kayla D. Chisholm
Computer Engineering

Elizabeth M. Collins
Biology

Rachel K. Collinsworth
Adolescence to Young Adult Education
and English

Sean T. Connelly
Exercise Physiology

Cassidy T. Count
Psychology

Kyle J. Crail
Accounting
- Marie J. Crouchley**
Pre-medicine

Callie A. Dannhauser
Psychology

Ethan J. Dawson
Biochemistry

Morgan N. Day
International Studies and Spanish

Elaine C. Dean
Pre-physical Therapy

Erin M. Delvecchio
Economics

Daniel J. DeRyckere
Accounting

Ashton N. Dix
Pre-medicine

Grace A. Docken
Chemical Engineering

Marcella R. Domka
Environmental Biology

Mary C. Donovan
Music Performance

Anna L. Drew
Environmental Biology

Sabrina L. Dunbar
Finance and English

Maris O. Ebeling
Pre-physical Therapy

Haley E. Edwards
Biology

Blair Elmore
Political Science

Madison N. Enderle
Biology

Ian Evans
Communication: Electronic Media

Gabrielle M. Eviston
Intervention Specialist Education



A few of the 212 anticipated 2020 graduates during the fall semester of their senior year.
Photo courtesy of Paul Nguyen, CaptureChris Media 2019.

- Sarah H. Eyer**
History

Amanda L. Fawcett
Biology

Claire M. Feller
Biology

Baylor M. Franck
Electrical Engineering

David W. Gaydos
Civil Engineering

Lauren E. Getgey
Psychology

Mark A. Ghastine
Environmental Biology
- Elizabeth M. Gibbons**
Entrepreneurship, Finance and
Spanish

Meghan D. Grys
Interventional Specialist Education

Paige R. Hallstrom
Mechanical Engineering

Kirsten A. Hansen
Mechanical Engineering

Julia L. Harbach
Accounting and ent

Lucy A. Hartzell
Communication: Public Relations

Peter M. Hartzell
Mechanical Engineering
- Alexandra R. Hays**
Pre-physical Therapy

Lauren E. Heister
Management Information Systems

Cole M. Hepp
Adolescence to Young Adult Education
and History

John C. Herzog
Intervention Specialist Education

Patrick J. Hession
Chemical Engineering

Halley M. Hileman
Finance

Abigail M. Hines
English
- Elizabeth K. Hoffman**
Mechanical Engineering

Elizabeth M. Hoffman
Business Economics

Maura N. Hohl
Dietetics

Jaime E. Howard
Electrical Engineering

Indigo E. Hudepohl
Art Education

Paige L. Ingram
Mechanical Engineering

Paige E. Innes
Early Childhood Education

Chad M. Jaenke
Biology



Remembering past graduates:

1985

1990

1995

2000

graduate

Jake L. Jennes
Management Information Systems

Maggie E. Jewett
Chemical Engineering

Morgan E. Jewett
Accounting

Emily M. Jones
Biochemistry

Kelly E. Jones
Exercise Physiology

Tyler K. Jones
International Studies and
Political Science

Nickolas B. Jung
Entrepreneurship and Marketing

Wyatt A. Kaiser
Pre-medicine

Ashley L. Kalt
Pre-medicine

Emma L. Kapp
Communication: Public Relations

Krista M. Kaufmann
Biology

Dana P. Kieft
Exercise Science

Kayla E. Kingston
Communication: Public Relations

Katherine L. Kirchner
Communication

Monica M. Klepper
Entrepreneurship

Rebecca J. Kramb
Biochemistry

Hannah F. Kratofil
History and Political Science

Henry A. Kuechly
Pre-medicine

Serafino A. LaGalbo
Pre-medicine

Kevin R. Lawson
Mechanical Engineering

Rebecca F. LeBouef
Human Rights Studies
and Psychology

December R. Lee
Medicinal Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Abigail R. Lieser
French and International Studies

Michelle N. Little
Environmental Biology

Suzanne L. Lowes
Pre-medicine

Connor J. Lynch
French and International Studies

Samantha A. Mack
Early Childhood Education

Colin R. Maddock
Psychology

Katelyn M. Manning
Finance and Marketing

Nathan G. Mansour
Electrical Engineering

Domenic F. Maricocchi
Sport Management

Paul R. Maricocchi
Chemical Engineering

Madison N. Marquart
Pre-physical Therapy

Matthew J. Martin
Marketing

Jillian A. McIntosh
Entrepreneurship and Marketing

Mary E. McLoughlin
English and Human Rights Studies

Elyse M. McMahon
Human Rights Studies and Political
Science

Sarah E. McQuillan
Biology

Miranda N. Melreit
Biology

Natalie R. Merline
Environmental Biology

Noel J. Michel
Mechanical Engineering

Abigail A. Miller
Environmental Biology

Kelci A. Murray
Pre-medicine

James E. Nagai
Psychology

Samantha L. Neanover
Pre-medicine and
Medicinal Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Delali B. Nenonene
Political Science

Sean M. Newhouse
Communication and Political Science

Laura M. Nobel
Adolescence to Young Adult Education
and History

Lianna T. Nordwig
Mechanical Engineering

Michael E. Oliver
Mechanical Engineering

Patricia K. Parker
Biology

Erin E. Pellot
Biology

Nicole B. Perkins
English

David H. Pohlman
Biology

Jessica Rach
Business Economics and Finance

Ryan H. Reed
History

Brittany N. Resar
Middle Childhood Education

Gabriella J. Rice
International Business Management

Leigh A. Roberts
Pre-medicine

Stephanie C. Roberts
Pre-physical Therapy

Frances M. Rogan
Foreign Language Education and
Spanish

Alexa R. Rojas
Spanish

Malea C. Rolfsen
Biochemistry

Sarah E. Rolfsen
Early Childhood Education

Tatum L. Ross
Mechanical Engineering Technology

Nicholas R. Rotsching
Biology

Claire M. Rotter
Accounting

Kyle Rudolph
Mechanical Engineering

Shannon R. Saelinger
Biochemistry

Emily V. Sandstrom
Environmental Biology

Thomas J. Schlitt
Mechanical Engineering

Matthew O. Schubert
Communication: Journalism and
Political Science

Mary E. Schultz
Interventional Specialist Education

Ruth C. Schultz
Criminal Justice Studies and Sociology

Jacob H. Scott
International Business Management

Emma M. Scovill
English and Political Science

Scott M. Seel
Chemical Engineering

Joshua A. Segalewitz
Human Rights Studies and Sociology

Stacia N. Seitz
Mathematics

Emily R. Shanahan
International Business Management

Henry C. Shay
Biochemistry

Elizabeth F. Skelin
Marketing

Joseph R. Sloan
Accounting, Business Economics
and Finance

Alexis R. Smith
Medicinal Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Kelly M. Sonnefeld
Pre-medicine

Jenna N. Sorensen
Exercise Physiology

Anna L. Stachler
Pre-medicine

Emma C. Statt
Pre-medicine

Kyle L. Steffen
Accounting and Finance

Cierra D. Stewart
Political Science

Elizabeth V. Stokes
Mechanical Engineering

Mackenzie C. Storm
Business Economics and Finance

Cordell J. Stover
Exercise Science

Alexander M. Studnicka
Mechanical Engineering

Therese A. Sweeney
Human Rights Studies
and International Studies

Ethan A. Swierczewski
English

Jordan M. Terschluse
Biology

Justin A. This
International Studies

Kylie N. Timmerman
Applied Mathematical Economics

Hannah L. Torok
Psychology

Kristen Travers
Foreign Language Education and
Spanish

Caleb G. Vanden Eynden
Music Education

Danielle R. Villhard
Education and Allied Studies

Mackenzie M. Volz
Biology

Cheyenne L. Ward
English

Margaret M. Ward
Political Science

Shelbie N. Weightman
Psychology

Natalie A. Weikert
Finance and
International Business Management

Elizabeth A. Weiler
Graphic Design

Jenna L. Weithman
Pre-physical Therapy

Katelin A. Weitzel
Civil Engineering

Claire K. Wilson
Mechanical Engineering

Janeta Y. Yancheva
Pre-medicine

Sarah M. Yelsik
Biology and Spanish

Mallory R. Zalla
Psychology

Megan E. Zaratzian
Chemical Engineering

George P. Zavakos
Applied Mathematical Economics

Brendan L. Zdunek
American Studies

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Remembering past graduates:

2005

2010

2015

2020 and beyond

THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM has always aligned itself with UD's larger aspirations. In the coming decade, Honors will evolve in concert with the vision outlined during the Installation of its 19th president, Dr. Eric Spina. As UD aspires to be the University of the Common Good, then the Honors Program will promote the common good through greater access — attracting a more diverse student population to Honors than ever before.

The Program will also encourage students to explore vocation — through the Chaminade Scholars, Honors thesis, as well as other signature programs and avenues — so that Honors students will reflect on how their gifts and talents might intersect with the needs of the world. In addition, the Honors curriculum will grow in partnership with the Common Academic Program and the development of experiential learning opportunities across campus.

In the coming years, stay tuned for some new programs and opportunities for Honors students that relate to graduate school preparation, advising for Honors students and experiential learning in new global destinations.

"The Honors Program has opened wonderful opportunities for academic and personal growth in areas I would not have explored otherwise."

Andrew Killian
Class of 2021

"I hope that the Honors Program can continue to provide amazing opportunities for experiential learning for its students. I have benefited so much from signature programs, such as Chaminade Scholars, or experiential learning like the Honors thesis, and I hope these opportunities can continue to be around for future students."

Anna Blair
Class of 2020

"Because of the Honors Program, I've been able to intern in London, intern in Washington, D.C. and work on a thesis project...and still have money in my bank account."

Sean Newhouse
Class of 2020

"Thanks to the opportunities through and support from the Honors Program, I was motivated to apply for the post-graduate service program. The UHP not only provided me with information about the program, they also guided me through the application and interview process. The Chaminade Scholars program has also been an incredible opportunity to learn with other students about faith and vocation through the lens of multiple disciplines and perspectives."

Danielle Villhard
Class of 2020

Planning the Future

When Dr. John McCombe interviewed for the position of Honors Program Director, he was asked a simple question: "Why does the University of Dayton need an Honors Program?" His response then continues to hold true today. "The University strives to meet the needs of every student," McCombe explained. "The Honors Program, in particular, meets the needs of high-achieving students looking for a challenge. It helps make their experience as a student satisfying and worthwhile."

Since becoming director four years ago, McCombe has worked to serve

this population of students looking for an academic challenge. The most rewarding aspect of the job has been providing these opportunities and seeing students succeed. "Working with such ambitious, intelligent and hard-working students every day is inspiring," he shared. "It makes me wish I would have worked harder as an undergraduate."

With the increasing number of talented students at UD, McCombe finds managing finances to be the biggest challenge he faces.

"We're trying to serve a growing population with a static budget," he said. "Everyone on our staff is aware of these somewhat limited

resources, and each person works to make sure our resources are spent wisely."

As his tenure as director continues, McCombe hopes he can maintain the signature programs set in place by his predecessors and add new opportunities as well.

"I just don't want to mess up the good things we have set in place now," he jokes. "Realistically, though, I'd like to be remembered as the director who was able to maintain the signature programs while also expanding the types of opportunities available to Honors students."

Emma Kapp '20

THE HONORS PROGRAM IS THANKFUL for the benefactors who have helped provide meaningful opportunities to students over the past 40 years.

The Daniel P. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by the family and friends of Daniel Arnold, a former Honors student who has passed. This scholarship is awarded each year to an Honors student from the College of Arts and Sciences who is pursuing a thesis project.

The Berry Family, namely John Berry Jr., Shirley Berry and Charles “Chuck” Berry, have made impactful contributions to the Program. Because of their generosity, opportunities like Berry Scholars, the Berry Summer Thesis Institute (BSTI) and other Honors scholarships have been made available to students.

Dayton Power & Light Company awarded the Honors Program two Power Grants since 2016 to support experiential learning through the DC Flyers program.

The GAR Foundation was established in 1985 to provide funds for Honors students from Ohio.

Cordell W. Hull established the Hull International Fellowship Fund to support experiential learning. Honors students seeking to learn, lead and serve in an international setting benefit from this fund.

The Patrick F. Palermo Honors Program Founders Fund was created by Honors alumni “for Honors thesis projects that involve international research, service and leadership in the community, or which advance the realization of a just society.”

The Russell Primrose Endowed Fund assists full-time Honors students enrolled in the School of Engineering. The fund was established in 1985 as a tribute to Dr. Russell Primrose, former dean of the School of Engineering and friend of the Honors Program.

Former Gov. Robert Taft has supported Honors student interns through the DC Flyers program since it began in 2014.

STATISTICS*

Honors graduates: 2,599

Signature program participants

- Berry Scholars: 285
- Berry Summer Thesis Institute: 86
- Chaminade Scholars: 483
- Clare Boothe Luce Scholars: 8 (2-year limited program)
- DC Flyers: 95
- Global Flyers: 45
- GRE Advanced Training (pilot): 12

Art show awardees: 466

Honors Student Symposium participants: 791

Honors Student Welcome participants: 3,064

Honors Student Welcome leaders: 886

Thesis scholars: 1,531

Largest incoming class: 464 (2022)

Largest graduating class: 248 (2018)

Preliminary 2019-20 Honors population: 1,368

*as of November 2019



EDITOR’S NOTE

The first time I was on campus was to interview for the Honors Program office coordinator position. I was greeted twice by strangers before I even entered Alumni Hall.

Once I began work at UD that feeling of inclusion continued with door-holding students and friendly nods as I passed people going to and from their destinations. And being part of the UHP just enhanced that community awareness, not only in the appreciation I received for any skills I brought to the job but by the encouragement I was given to hone my abilities and the challenge to accept and create opportunities for myself and the Program. I was able to use every aspect of what I had learned in my past work life in some way.

As I enter retirement I look back and see a career path that curved and rose and fell as I took chances and changed direction and pushed forward. The 50 years of work spread over a variety of places and involved hundreds of people who influenced me along the way. And thank God and Tricia Hart, David Darrow and John McCombe for allowing me this time at the University of Dayton — a wonderful place to walk away from as I move toward the next phase. I still see work ahead, just that of my own design.

There are two pieces of advice I received long ago that I try to live by:

- From my father: Move forward and do good work.
- From my mother: Be kind.

I hope I can continue to follow those words of wisdom and pay forward all that I’ve received during my time here.

“Good bye” and “fare well” are lovely English phrases but I prefer the Italian “a Dios e buona fortuna”... or Star Trek’s “Live long and prosper”... or even Star Wars’ “May the Force be with you”...

Fondly,

Ramona R. Speranza
 Babysitter
 Grasscutter
 Piano Teacher
 Secretary
 Office Manager
 Artist
 High School Teacher
 Writer
 Graphic Designer
 Marketing Manager
 Office Coordinator
 Editor
 Retiree



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First Honors Student
Welcome, August 2010

